

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084287

FROM LANDE TO AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BG, US

SUBJECT: NURUZZAMAN CASE

REF: DACCA 1506

1. WE HAVE RUN INTO DIFFICULTY IN REACHING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE NURUZZAMAN VISA PROBLEM. AS YOU WILL RECALL, WE HAVE TRIED TO ASSIST THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY WITH CHANGING MRS. ZAMAN'S STATUS FROM B-2 TO A-2 TO MATCH THAT OF HER HUSBAND. THE MATTER NOW HINGES ON THE EMBASSY'S REGISTERING MR. NURUZZAMAN WITH THE PROTOCOL OFFICE AS REQUIRED BY THE FOREIGN AGENT'S REGISTRATION ACT. THE ACT PROVIDES THAT EMBASSIES MUST COMPLETE A PARTICULAR FORM --DS 394-- ON ALL OF THEIR COUNTRY'S OFFICIALS WHO ARE IN THE US ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT REGISTERED NURUZZAMAN AND IS STRONGLY RE-SISTING DOING SO, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS, TO US, THE MOST

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EXPEDITIOUS MEANS OF FACILITATING MRS. ZAMAN'S STATUS CHANGE THE EMBASSY WILL NOT TELL US WHAT THEIR OBJECTION IS TO COMPLETING THE FORM. MINISTER KABIR, HOWEVER, ASSURES US THAT THIS IS NOT A PERSONAL MATTER INVOLVING HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW BUT A POLITICAL QUESTION OF WHICH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS, HE IMPLIES, FULLY AWARE.

2. WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE CHANGE TO A-2 WAS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT DS 394 COMPLETION, KABIR ASKED THAT WE ASSIST WITH AN EXTENSION OF MRS. ZAMAN'S STAY IN B-2 CATEGORY. THIS WE PLAN TO DO. THE EXTENSION, HOWEVER, CAN ONLY BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE INITIAL AUTHORIZED STAY, APRIL 8. THUS, SHE WILL HAVE ONLY UP TO MAY 8 TO CHANGE TO ANOTHER VISA STATUS OR LEAVE THE COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF DS 394 IS SUBMITTED SHE CAN CHANGE HER VISA STATUS AND STAY AS LONG AS HER HUSBAND.

3. WE ARE PUZZLED BY THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY'S APPROACH TO THE CASE AND ARE NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH KABIR'S EXPLANATION THAT IT IS WHOLLY A POLITICAL MATTER. WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. YOU MIGHT POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT SIMPLY SUBMITTING FORM DS 394 TO THE PROTOCOL OFFICE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY COMPROMISE NURUZZAMAN'S WHEREABOUTS. FORMS ARE IN NO WAY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND MERE FACT OF SUBMISSION DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDE PERSONS ON EITHER WHITE OR BLUE DIPLOMATIC LISTS PUBLISHED HERE. WE HAVE SO ASSURED MR. KABIR.

4. PLEASE LET US KNOW.
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